Work Load in the Department of Food

3049. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work load in the Department of Food has gone down due to transfer of Army Purchase Organisation to Ministry of Defence, Diet Nutritions Survey, delicensing of roller Flour Mills and further by making a new Ministry namely Food Processing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has not been any reduction in the posts of top officials namely Additional Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries etc; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken to effect economy, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The total strength of Group A officers in the Department before the transfer of Army Purchase Organisation and the abolition of Diet and Nutrition Survey Unit was 252. Only 6 Group-A officers were working in the Army Purchase Organisaion who were transferred along with all the subordinate officials to the Ministry of Defence. Only 5 Group-A officers were working in the DNS Unit and these posts as also other posts of subordinate officials in the Unit were abolished with the abolition of the Unit as an economy measure. Similarly, along with the work that has been transferred to the new Ministry of Food Processing Industries, all the concerned officers/staff of the level of Director/Deputy Secretary and below are being transferred to the new Ministry.

Setting up of TV transmitter in backward areas

3050. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government give priority to backward areas for installing TV Transmitters;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing TV Transmitter at Narnaul (Haryana); and

(c) by when Government propose to set up TV Transmitter there?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BRCADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. This is one of the criteria kept in view while locating TV transmitters in the country.

(b) and (c) Establishment of a low power TV transmitter at Narnaul in Haryana is included in the VII Plan of Doordarshan. According to frequency planning, the transmitter for Naruaul (as also for a number of other places in the country) has been assigned a UHF (Ultra High Frequency) channel of operation. The indigenous supply of this type of equipment is due to commence shortly and the TV transmitter at Narnaul is expected to be installed and commissioned into service during the current financial year (1988-89) itself.

Wastage of Milk Supplied in Poly-packs

3051. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Milk Scheme has started supplying milk in poly-packs instead of bottles in different parts of the capital including Ha'rinagar, Mayapuri, Subhashnagar, Rajouri Garden etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to handling at several points poor quality of the material used and poor workmanship, milk get leaked;

(c) whether it is also a fact that telephonic/written complaints have been lodged with the DMS about this as the consumers are not ready to take the leaked packets resulting in acrimonious scenes at the booths.

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the DMS to rectify the situation; and

(e) whether DMS proposes to supply some extra packets free of cost to the booths to compensate the wastage of milk due to leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHIR SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Delhi Milk Scheme has taken a policy decision to gradually switch over to sale of milk in polypack pouches instead of bottles. Milk is being supplied at present both in polypack and in bottles all over Delhi.

(b) Some incidents of leakage are there which is a normal phenomenon in handling of milk in polythene pouches.

(c) to (e) Some complaints regarding leaky pouches have been received by the DMS from consumers. DMS has taken following steps so that consumers do not get leaky pouches:—

(i) Heavy Vehicle Drivers have been instructed not to deliver leaky pouches at the booths and bring back these pouches to DMS.

(ii) Similarly Depot Agents have also been advised not to deliver leaky pouches to customers.

Collapsing of Intermediate Platform in Bokaro Steel Plant

3052. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of persons died and some injured following collapse of intermediate platform in Bokaro Steel Plant recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the inquiry made by Government into the incident and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Eight persons died and four were injured in an accident at Bokaro Steel Plant on 18-7-88 when in the Blast Furnace No. 3, which was under capital repairs, one of the three steel platforms tilted on one side due to sudden failure of one of the top pulley blocks resulting in the fall of persons working thereon.

(c) An Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of General Manager (Projects) of Bokaro Steel Plant which investigated into the causes of the accident, has *prima facie*, concluded that the accident occured on account of material failure of the equipment. The detailed report of the Committee is under finalisation. In the meantime immediate relief to the injured and next of kin of the deceased has been arranged.

Use of Bio-Fertilisers

3053 SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemical fertilizer subsidies are a serious strain on the economy;

(b) whether chemical fertilisers are mainly used by affluent farmers;

(c) whether Bio-organic farming is gaining widespread use as a part of sustainable agriculture; and